



Idaho Professional-Technical Education

State Board of Education Proposed Changes to Graduation Requirements

The State Division of Professional-Technical Education supports the need for improvements to make the high school experience relevant, engaging and rigorous so that students are better prepared to enter and graduate from a postsecondary institution and successfully function in the workforce. The Division believes that a combination of solid academic courses and rigorous technical programs organized in a mutually supportive educational plan is the best way to accomplish this. The changes proposed by the State Board of Education, as recommended by the Accelerated Learning Task Force, if implemented system-wide, will ensure that students will be better prepared.

The Postsecondary Readiness Plan, required at the end of the 6th grade, is the first step in helping students, with parent involvement, plan their junior high and high school educational experiences for maximum benefit. The graduation requirements include 8 credits for Career Focus. Students pursuing a professional-technical emphasis of their choice are able to use these 8 credits for that purpose while receiving advanced opportunities for postsecondary credit through Tech Prep and other dual credit opportunities.

These recommendations fit well with the Division's Quality Initiative. The key components are: 1) rigorous technical programs; 2) integration of academic achievement standards; and, 3) articulation of high school and college curriculum. Professional-technical content has the potential to add relevance and rigor to the new requirements. Integration of applied content into mathematics and science instruction will facilitate student achievement in these areas.

Following are websites that provide more information about the proposed changes in graduation requirements.

http://www.idahoboardofed.org/press_releases/2005PressReleases/08_11_05.asp for a press release summarizing the changes.

<http://www.boardofed.idaho.gov/HiSchlRedesign> for a side by side comparison chart of new and old graduation requirements and other links of interest.